



GRANTS NEWS YOU CAN USE



No. 10

Conservation Commission Grants Program Newsletter

April 1999

It's the end of the biennium!

So what? Well, if you want to be reimbursed in a timely manner under any of your grants with the State, you need to submit your invoice vouchers that include expenses incurred up to June 30, 1999 no later than July 15, 1999.

If you don't, you may face a significant delay in getting your reimbursement.

In the shopping mood?

Conservation districts can buy equipment under the State's contracts. Here's how:

You need to register with the Department of General Administration's "State Purchasing Cooperative" by downloading the registration form from GA's website at

<http://www.ga.wa.gov/pca/spc.htm>

When downloading the registration form, choose the form for "political subdivisions." A list of contracts is available at the website, too.

You can also obtain registration forms by calling the Purchasing Cooperative at 360/902-7415.

District job openings ...

The Upper Grant Conservation District is hiring an Agricultural Resource Conservationist. For more information, contact Dave Koller at 509/754-0195.

That's it for this edition of the newsletter. If you want your job openings included here, let Bob Bottman (360/407-6204) know as soon as you can.

Grantwriting workshop

The Columbia-Pacific RC&D Council is sponsoring "Grantwriting for Professionals I," a proposal development workshop. Dr. Donald Udell, a resource development specialist, will present the workshop.

The workshop will be held on July 28, 29, and 30, 1999 at the RC&D offices in Aberdeen. Registration is \$250. Dr. Udell also will offer follow up workshops, "Grantwriting II & III," on September 22, 23, and 24, 1999.

For more information on these workshops, call the Columbia-Pacific RC&D at 360/533-4648.

Hey! Have you registered for the WADE Workshop?

WADE President, John Konovsky, told us that if you plan on attending you need to register no later than June 2, 1999.

Each year, the WADE Workshop gets better and better. This year's workshop continues that trend, with presenters scheduled from the State Auditor, the Attorney General, the Office of Financial Management, Labor & Industries, Employment Security, and the Washington Governmental Entity Pool (WGEP).

And remember ... registration expenses are grant eligible under Commission grants.

State travel regulations on the web

The Office of Financial Management (OFM) has added the State Administrative & Accounting Manual to its website. This manual contains guidelines for state agencies regarding reimbursement rates for travel and other financial management items.

The reason this is of interest to you is that conservation districts with Commission grants are required to use State travel reimbursement rates and guidelines.

You may view the State Administrative & Accounting Manual at

www.wa.gov/ofm/policies_toc.html

If you have questions, feel free to call Debbie Schenck (360/407-6212), or Ann Holleman (360/407-6114).

Natural Resources Youth Camp

We all know that one of the best ways to ensure our planet's future is to leave it in the hands of an environmentally aware generation. And that's what Washington's Natural Resources Youth Camps are all about.

The Western Washington camp is held June 20-26, 1999 at the Cispus Learning Center, 10 miles south of Randle in Lewis County. This camp is for youth from ages 13 to 16. Cost per camper is \$300. There is also an advanced camp for youth from ages 15 to 17 who have already attended a camp session. The advanced camp costs \$325 and begins a day earlier.

The Eastern Washington camp is held June 13-19, 1999 at Camp N Sid Sen, nine miles north of Harrison, Idaho. The cost per camper is \$190, and is for youth from 14 to 16 years of age.

For registration information on the Western Washington camp, call John Bergvall at 360/902-1027 or James Chandler at 360/902-2263. James Chandler's email is chandjac@dfw.wa.gov.

For registration information on the Eastern Washington camp, call Shelley Lassiter at 509/323-2987.

If we do not change our direction, we are likely to end up where we are headed.

~ Chinese Proverb

The Commission has a 10-minute introductory videotape about the Natural Resources Youth Camp that you can borrow to learn more. Call Debbie Schenck at 360/407-6212 if you want to view it.

Well, the Natural Resources Youth Camp is a great idea ... but how can kids (and parents) afford it?

Glad you asked. Here's how:

A portion of the Natural Resources Youth Camp registration fee is grant eligible under Conservation Commission grants. Every district is allowed to charge up to half the cost of sending three campers to a Natural Resources Youth Camp each year.

The remaining half of the camp fee may be made up by any other funding source except another Commission grant. We encourage you to consider approaching local businesses and/or community groups for the remainder of the camp fees.

The only string attached to this deal is that the youth you sponsor MUST report back after camp to one of your board meetings and tell you what he or she learned.

If you have any questions on this policy, call Bob Bottman (360/407-6204) or Cheryl Witt (360/407-6205).

Get your grant applications here! Fresh from the Commission's website to your computer!

You can now download water quality (Implementation and Competitive) grant applications for the 1999-2001 Biennium from our website!

Simply go to www.conserver.org and select "resources." On the "Resources Page," select "Online document library" and you'll be there (or you can go directly to <http://conserver.org/cgi-bin/download/list.cgi>). You can choose ZIPped files or self-extracting files.

If you have questions or problems getting these files downloaded, contact our Webmaster extraordinaire, Tom Salzer (360/407-6214, or tsal461@ecy.wa.gov).

So, what's going on with CREP?

It's CREPPing along, to quote Mark Clark, our CREP Coordinator.

Seriously, we need all CREP districts to get their revised stream miles into us as soon as possible. Call Mark (360/407-6531) about this.

Also, please remember that your CREP Technical Assistance grant ends on June 30, 1999. These grants were funded with State General Fund money that goes away on that date – it cannot be carried over into the new biennium.

However, the CREP cost sharing money can be carried over, and already has been reappropriated for the new biennium.

Need someone to help out with all that salmon recovery work?

Does a full-time technical staff person at your district for \$5,000 a year seem too good to be true? Well, it's not. Read on to discover why.

Ecology just received a substantial award under the AmeriCorps program that allows them to offer full-time positions to qualifying entities (including conservation districts) for a cash match of \$5,000 a year.

AmeriCorps is a national service program that provides direct community service to help meet local needs in the areas of education, public safety, health and human services, and the environment. Ecology's program is called the "Salmon Recovery Initiative," and individuals employed under it are limited to work involving salmon recovery. This work must also include at least one component involving senior citizens.

Ecology will send out a Request For Proposals to every conservation district in late May 1999. If you're interested in applying for a partnership agreement under this program, look for this mailing.

If you are awarded a position, Ecology will pay all costs except the cash match for a year, plus provide 160 hours of training during that time. You will be allowed to hire your person locally, as long as he or she is between the ages of 18 and 25 years.

For more information, call Ecology's Rob Spath at 360/407-6936 or email him at rspa461@ecy.wa.gov.

Here's your second chance to tell the Auditor what to do with BARS!

The final draft version of the BARS Manual is (or will shortly be) posted on the Commission website. Just go to www.conserver.org and select "resources." The draft BARS Manual is on the "Resource Page."

If you can't get the draft manual this way, just call Cheryl Witt (360/407-6205) and she will send it to you by email or on diskette.

Mark Rapozo of the Auditor's Office needs your comments or suggestions before the WADE Workshop in July. You can also send your comments to Cheryl and we'll make sure Mark gets them.

Your comments are welcome!

Feel free to call, write, or email any of the Commission members or staff about the grants newsletter. Let us know how we can make this communication channel work better for you.